

# The Cows' Marsh (Le Marais des vaches)

Ponds and marshes surround the tamed course of the river, with beautiful viewpoints up on the heights.

🕒 Time: 3 hours 40

📏 Distance: 11 km

🚶 Route: moderate

**Leaving from:** Opposite the Mairie in Méricourt-sur-Somme

**Méricourt-sur-Somme,**  
33 km east of Amiens,  
8 km south-west of  
Bray-sur-Somme



- ① From the car park, take the D71 towards Bray.

▶ In Méricourt: church of Saint-Martin from the 18th century, Lady Chapel, wayside shrines and crosses, including that of the monks from the old priory, 17th-century château.

At the crossroads, go up the lane to the left. At the fork, turn left, and carry on towards the wood.

- ② Turn left, then right, then left again towards the road. Follow it left for 500 m, then bear right towards the Somme Relief Canal.

- ③ Cross the bridge by the lock. On the bend, leave the road and take the lane opposite, sloping down to the right. Follow it between the ponds and the marshes to pick up the road again.

▶ 40 hectares of restored marshland designated *Tourisme et Handicap*.

- ④ Turn left along the road, cross the bridge, and carry on to the

crossroads.

Take the road on the left. Pass close to a "Caesar's Camp" on the heights to the right.

▶ *Belvedere on the left.*

Heading for Chipilly, take the first lane to the left as far as the metalled road, on the right, leading to the village.

Carry on into Chipilly.

▶ 19th-century church of Saint-Martin, cross, War Memorial showing an English soldier comforting his wounded horse.

- ⑤ At the crossroads, go left into the Rue du Pont. Cross the bridge, then go down to the towpath and follow it left, along the ponds and marshes.

▶ *In the past, before barges had engines, this path was used for towing them with ropes.*

- ⑥ After Méricourt, cross the footbridge on the right, and join

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the road. Follow it right to get back to where you started from.

## Render unto Caesar...

This oft-cited old adage does not always hold good. This is particularly true when the name "Caesar's Camp" is applied to an ancient fortified site positioned on a strategically sited knoll, ridge or hill. This particular cunning arrangement should in fact be credited to the Gauls, and was known as an *oppidum*. Our Gaulish ancestors, being fine strategists, would choose a spot with natural defences such as steep approaches, a river or a marsh, which they would then complement at vulnerable points with ditches and walls. On invading our country, the Romans, impressed by the defensive characteristics of this enclosure, adopted it and shamelessly claimed it as their own!

of interest

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- Signage
- Route continues
- Change of direction
- Wrong direction

This circuit is maintained by the Poppy Country and the Val de Somme group of communes.

Route not suitable for horses or motor sports.

### In the vicinity

- 8 km away, Bray-sur-Somme: church of Saint-Nicolas, dating from the 12th century, oratories, cross, Historical Heritage Museum, military cemeteries, old mill, washhouses.
- 11 km away, Cappy: church of Saint-Nicolas, 17th century, boating centre, P'tit Train de la Haute-Somme.
- 16 km away, Albert: 19th-century Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brebrières (gilded statue of the Virgin), Flemish-style Hôtel de Ville, Somme 1916 Underground Museum, public arboretum garden (arboretum and waterfall), Vélodrome Ponds.